

Daniel A. Goonan
Chief of Department



Brendan M. Burns
Assistant Chief

City of Manchester *Fire Department*

PRESS RELEASE

Incident Type: Swift Water Rescue

Date: April 4, 2020

Address: Merrimack River in the area of Sewage Treatment Plant.

Time: 13:57

Under Control:

All Out: 15:04

Number/Type Apparatus: 2 Engines 1 Rescue 1 District Chief and 1ALS ambulance

Number of Alarms:

Incident Summary: MFD responded to a report of 2 individuals in the water in the area of 300 Winston St. On arrival E-9 discovered 1 individual standing in the middle of the rapids just south of I-293 Bridge. This individual through hand signals indicated that another victim had been washed down river. E-3 made eye contact with the 2nd victim and attempted to throw him a rope. They were unsuccessful and he continued down river through another set of rapids where he was able to grab on to the branches of a downed Birch Tree. R-1 launched two boats from the Granite St. Boat Ramp and were able to navigate the rapids and secure both victims. Bedford Fire and both Fish and Game and NH Marine Patrol assisted. By coincidence they were in the river diving for an individual who had disappeared in the river a few days ago. The two individuals were not wearing Personal Flotation Devices and were dressed in street clothes. The water temperature is around 40 degrees this time of year and the water is high and extremely treacherous. Both victims were treated for hypothermia.

Any Special Features: High water and extremely swift current.

Extent of Damages:

Civilians Injured: 0

Firefighters Injured: 0

Building Owner:

Remarks: Due to the extreme conditions and the water temperature these two individuals are lucky to be alive.

District Chief: Hank Martineau

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